

BA-1598

Brandonwood

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

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Last Updated: 06-23-2004

BA 1598

Brandonwood

Jack W. Shay and Thomas C. Quirt

918 Green Spring Valley Road

Brooklandville, Maryland

Private

Brandonwood is an early twentieth century house carefully designed to recall the finest late eighteenth century architecture of Maryland and Virginia. The five part form is characteristic of mansions of the eighteenth century as is its hilltop site overlooking a long view to the south.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

BA 1598

X-890.890

Y-579.190

BA# 1598A

X-890.570

Y-579.010

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

MAGI #0315982704

1 NAME

HISTORIC

BRANDONWOOD

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

918 Green Spring Valley Road

Second

CITY, TOWN

Brooklandville

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

☐ STRUCTURE

☐ SITE

☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC

☐ PRIVATE

☒ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS

☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

☐ UNOCCUPIED

☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED

☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED

☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE

☐ COMMERCIAL

☐ EDUCATIONAL

☐ ENTERTAINMENT

☐ GOVERNMENT

☐ INDUSTRIAL

☐ MILITARY

☐ MUSEUM

☐ PARK

☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

☐ RELIGIOUS

☐ SCIENTIFIC

☐ TRANSPORTATION

☐ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Jack W. Shay and Thomas C. Quirt

Telephone #: 296-5554

STREET & NUMBER

918 Green Spring Valley Road

CITY, TOWN

Brooklandville

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

County Court House

STREET & NUMBER

401 Bosley Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson, Maryland 21204

STATE

Liber #: EKH Jr. 5350
Folio #: 771

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

—FEDERAL —STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

BA-1598

CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

BRANDONWOOD is a five-part mansion of brick laid in Flemish bond carefully designed to recall the finest late eighteenth century architecture of tidewater Maryland and Virginia; it dates from ca. 1920-1940.

The principal entrance facade is the north. The center block is five bays in width and the three central bays project as a pavilion. A broad two storey sun porch projects from the south front. The roof is hipped and a hipped roof extends over the southerly projection. Hyphens have very low gabled roofs and the flanking outbuildings are each two storeys in height with hipped roofs.

A wide center hall contains a staircase at its north end, the long intermediate landing being immediately above the north entrance. A large parlor is to the west, a large dining room is to the east and both rooms extend the full depth of the center block. All three principal spaces are fully and carefully detailed to recall English Georgian design as interpreted in late eighteenth century Maryland and Virginia, especially Annapolis.

The kitchen is in the east outbuilding and a trophy room or library is in the west.

North of the house, centered, is a large garage, also carefully designed to recall a stable or carriage house of the period.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

BA-1598

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

BRANDONWOOD is an early twentieth century house carefully designed to recall the finest late eighteenth century architecture of Maryland and Virginia, especially Annapolis. The five part form is characteristic of mansions of the eighteenth century as is its hill-top site overlooking a long view to the south.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

BRANDONWOOD

The twentieth-century brick mansion known as Brandonwood was constructed in the mode of an earlier architectural period of tidewater Maryland and Virginia. It stands on part of the historic Brooklandwood estate which at one time consisted of 1,792 acres in the eastern end of the Green Spring Valley. Originally much of this land was patented by members of the Cockey family who were among the first settlers in the region.¹ The estate itself was developed by Charles Carroll of Carrollton, a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

Brooklandwood had dwindled to 370 acres when the estate was purchased in 1916 by Captain Isaac Emerson and his second wife, Anne P. McCormack.² Emerson was the originator of Bromo Selter and the builder of the Emerson Hotel and the Bromo Seltzer Tower.³ It was soon after this purchase that Emerson had Brandonwood built on part of his property that bordered on the Green Spring Valley Road. It was to be the home of his stepson Frederick C. McCormack, Jr.⁴ At that time the three-story structure contained fifty rooms.⁵

Brandonwood suffered a damaging fire in 1939.⁶

FOOTNOTES

¹ For further information on the estate, including a listing of patent and deed references, see Dawn F. Thomas and Robert W. Barnes, The Green Spring Valley: Its History and Heritage, 2 vols. (Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 1978), 1:221-229.

² Robert Erskine Lewis, "Brooklandville, Baltimore County," Maryland Historical Magazine, 43 (1948): 284.

³ Felix Agnus, ed., The Book of Maryland: "Men and Institutions", (Baltimore: Maryland Biographical Association, 1920), p.32.

⁴ Interview with Mrs. Ethel (McCormack) McAdoo Keith Loomam, step-daughter of Captain Emerson, 11 September 1972.

⁵ "Eight Units Fight \$75,000 Fire in Valley House", Sun, 11 March 1939.

⁶ Ibid.

BRANDONWOOD was built in 1925 at a cost of \$47,000 by Isaac E. Emerson on land purchased by Mr. Emerson December 1, 1916 from George Brown, Jr., and Percy H. Goodwin, trustees for the estate of Frances Winchester Brown.²

Although Mr. Emerson built the house for his stepson, Frederick C. McCormack, Jr.,³ he retained ownership of the house⁴ and left it in his will to Frederick McCormack's wife, Ritchie Harrison McCormack for her life and to their daughter, Margaret E. McCormack at her mother's death.⁵ Margaret E. McCormack Markoe subsequently became the defendant in a suit concerning Brandonwood in which her mother was the plaintiff.⁶ This court proceeding resulted in the Union Trust Co. being designated trustee to sell the estate for \$100,000.⁷ Thus Brandonwood together with 46 acres of land passed to the purchasers, Foster J. Fenton and Frances Carroll Fenton, his wife, on May 17, 1954.⁸

After the death of his wife, Foster Fenton sold Brandonwood to Jack W. Shay and Thomas C. Quirt, on March 13, 1973.⁹ The property presently attached to Brandonwood is about eight acres.¹⁰ Messrs. Shay and Quirt are the current owners of Brandonwood.

Captain Emerson built Brandonwood for his stepson, Frederick McCormack who had married Ritchie Harrison of Virginia. Mrs. McCormack was a granddaughter of General Henry Harrison Walker whose daughter married George Harrison the heir of Brandon* on the James River. Mr. and Mrs. Harrison were divorced so their two daughters, of whom Ritchie was one, visited their father during his years at Brandon. Brandon is one of the well known early American Houses.

It not only had special meaning to his step-daughter-in-law, but Captain Emerson himself took a fancy to the place. Although not a precise copy, Brandonwood was modeled after Brandon.¹¹ The central building and one wing at Brandon are reputed to have been designed by Thomas Jefferson.¹² After the fire in 1939, it was restored to its original state. Later Brandonwood was rented while both Mrs. McCormack and her daughter, Margaret E. McCormack were living elsewhere.¹³

*Brandon, on the James River, about an hour by car from Williamsburg, is sometimes confused with "Upper Brandon" and referred to as "Lower" Brandon, although there is no Lower Brandon so named.¹⁴¹⁵

Brandonwood, Footnotes

¹ 1923 Tax Assessment Ledger for Baltimore County for Isaac E. Emerson, early Tax Ledgers, County Courts Building, Towson, Maryland.

² Baltimore County Land Records (BCLR), Deed in Liber WPC 472, folio 454, County Courts Building, Towson, Maryland.

³ See footnotes #4 on descriptive passage.

⁴ BCLR, deed in Liber GLB 2478, Folio 305.

⁵ Ibid and Wills; Liber ERD 127, folio 30.

⁶ Circuit Court Docket 57, folio 95, County Courts Building, Towson, Md.

⁷ Ibid and Ibid #4 above.

⁸ BCLR, Liber GLB 2478, folio 305.

⁹ BCLR, Liber EKH, Jr. 5350, folio 771.

¹⁰ Conversation with Mr. Shay

¹¹ Interview by phone with Henry Harrison Walker Lewis, second cousin of Ritchie Harrison McCormack who went to live in the same house with her at the death of his parents when he was two years old. Confirmed by phone interview with Mrs. Evelyn Harrison Ryan of California, another relative of Ritchie Harrison McCormack who is the steward of the family papers of Brandon.

¹² Interview by phone with Mrs. Ryan.

¹³ See #11.

¹⁴ Pratt, Richard; A Treasury of Early American Homes, McGraw Hill, New York 1949. p. 44, 45.

¹⁵ Mrs. Evelyn Harrison Ryan interview.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Baltimore County Land Records, Towson, Maryland
 Dawn F. Thomas and Robert W. Barnes. The Green Spring Valley: Its History and Heritage, 2 vols. (Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 1978)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 8 acres

North side Valley Road about mile west of Falls Road.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

James T. Wollon, Jr., A.I.A., Dawn F. Thomas, Catharine Washburne, Historians

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Valleys Planning Council

828-7807

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

212 Washington Avenue

Maryland

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 267-1438





BA 1598
Brandonwood
GSVHD
Gr.Sp.Vly.Rd.
JTW
2-79
Md.Hist.Tr.
from S